

PROCLAIM GIRLS' EMPOWERMENT MONTH – OCTOBER 2015

Los Angeles County (County) is the most populous county in a nation where women remain greatly underrepresented in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) fields, as well as in business, construction, manufacturing, and public service leadership positions. This gender inequity is compounded for young women of color, who comprise 85% of the County's female student population, and women and girls who comprise 19% of County residents living below the poverty line. These disparities have also resulted in significant public safety issues: 17% of women in the County report that they have experienced physical or sexual violence by an intimate partner. Girls who have been sexually abused who do not receive trauma-informed services frequently act out and commit minor offenses, including running away and truancy, which oftentimes results in incarceration.

To address comprehensively this significant social challenge requires proactive education and public health-based approaches. This October, several County Departments and Commissions will support the LA Fund for Public Education's (LA Fund) "Girls Build LA" Initiative (the Initiative), a grant-funded empowerment program which engages middle and high school girls in identifying the challenges women and girls face in Los Angeles, and encourages them to work in teams to implement solutions to break down those barriers. The Initiative will also provide girls and young women with

- MORE -

MOTION

SOLIS _____

RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

KUEHL _____

KNABE _____

ANTONOVICH _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS RIDLEY-THOMAS AND SOLIS

September 15, 2015

PAGE 2

increased access to educational and employment opportunities in partnership with community-based organizations and local businesses.

The Initiative will kick off on September 29th, when the LA Fund will host a free screening of Nobel Peace Prize laureate Malala Yousafzai's biopic "He Named Me Malala" for seven thousand schoolgirls throughout the County. The County should support this Initiative by providing transportation for the event.

WE THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1. Proclaim the month of October 2015 as "Girls' Empowerment Month" throughout the County of Los Angeles;
2. Encourage all County employees and residents to learn more about the "Girls Build LA Initiative" by visiting <https://www.lafund.org/girlsbuildla>;
3. Find that financing of special event transportation for the screening of "He Named Me Malala" is statutorily exempt from the California Quality Act pursuant to Section 21080(b)(10) of the Public Resources Code; and
4. Instruct the Director of Public Works to disburse up to \$80,000 from the Top of Pot allocation of the County's Proposition A Local Return Transit Program to The Los Angeles Fund for Public Education in order to reimburse the participating school districts for the transportation costs associated with facilitating the attendance of 7,000 students at the September 29, 2015 screening of "He Named Me Malala" at the Microsoft Theater. Funding is included in the Transit Enterprise Fund Fiscal Year 2015-16 Budget.

####

(EW/KK)